

The three consecutive excavations conducted at the site since 1997-98 onwards have yielded remains/evidence of public building and drainage, in addition to the evidence of activities of specialized crafts and long distance trade in material which were not available locally.

A good number of diagnostic artifacts recovered from the site include terracotta figurines; pieces of ornaments of gold, silver, copper, shell, semi-precious stones, steatite, faience, clay, bone, etc., stone weights, seals and sealings. In addition lithic and ceramic assemblages have also been found. A Harappan cemetery has also been identified.

The site has also yielded evidence of a pre-Harappan settlements.

(c) The considerable findings unearthed so far need careful analysis before further excavations can be considered.

Agreement on Tourism with Indonesia

†284. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India and Indonesia have entered into an accord this year in the field of tourism;

(b) if so, the extensive details thereof and by when it is likely to be implemented;

(c) whether Gujarat State would also be benefited from this accord; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the manner in which Government propose to encourage the Gujarat State in the field of tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of the Republic of India and the Government of the Republic of Indonesia on cooperation in the field of tourism was signed on 8.2.2000 in New Delhi. The Memorandum of Understanding aims at:

(i) Increasing tourist arrivals to both countries.

(ii) Encouraging a wider distribution of visitors to the various tourist destinations.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(iii) Encouraging visits of both nationals and residents to each country.

(iv) Encouraging growth of the tourism industry in both countries.

This Memorandum of Understanding has come into force on the date of its signing.

(c) and (d) Such Memorandum of Understandings on Cooperation in the field of tourism are helpful in promoting tourism to India as a whole including Gujarat. These MOUs serve as an instrument for marketing and promoting tourism from a particular market.

New Yatri Niwas in Assam

285. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any programme for setting up new Yatri Niwas in Assam during the year 1999-2000 and 2000-2001;

(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise, location-wise; and

(c) the details of fund allocated for the same by Government, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Department of Tourism in consultation with the State Govts./UTs, provides financial assistance to them every year for identified projects for development of tourism including the projects for construction of Yatri Niwas.

During the year 1999-2000, in consultation with the Govt. of Assam, a project namely construction of Yatri Niwas at khaspur, 30 Kms. from Silchar in Assam was sanctioned for an amount of Rs. 30.00 lakhs with central share of Rs. 18.00 lakhs. The projects for the year 2000-2001 will be identified in consultation with the State Govt. of Assam shortly.

Excavation of Harappan treasures in Muzaffarnagar

286. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Harappan period Gold Jewellery has been found in Muzaffarnagar in U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and